

By MIKE WHITESMAN : Wycombe W. 2, Leatherhead 2

LEATHERHEAD players and officials had to force their way through an angry home crowd before reaching their dressing room after Monday night's opening play-off at Loakes Park.

It was the second occasion this year that such ugly scenes had occurred. Last time ironically, followed the match with Maidenhead in which suspended striker, Keith Searle was sent off.

Wycombe's fanatical followers had been incensed by a series of over robust tackling from the visitors throughout the match. But the flashpoint of the evening

was a vicious foul by their number six, Adams on Geoff Anthony, as the wingman headed for goal, possibly on his way to completing a splendid first-half hat-trick.

The 'tackle', made in injury time, came as Anthony had beaten the left half near the visitors penalty area. It meant a lecturing for Adams and a painful ankle injury for the victim, who bravely resumed in the second half until a substitute—John Maskell, no less—could get changed.

Earlier Anthony had opened up what seemed a healthy lead with two fine goals, in the 20th and 25th minutes.

The latter resulted after Anthony had avoided Adams' challenge, before chipping the ball over 'keeper Cuthbert, onto the inside post, and into goal.

Wanderers, starting with ten men before Charlie Gale went on instead of the 'missing' Julian Lailey, were unquestionably the footballing side of the two.

But, their strong arm tactics allowed to go virtually unchecked by referee, Mr. G. Keeble (Burnham), Leatherhead fought their way back after the interval, and subsequent pressure helped them regain a late point.

Skinner, straight from a 70th minute corner, and Howard, heading in a cross off the left, ten minutes from time, equalised.

WYCOMBE: K. O'Brien; R. Royston, D. Thomas; Walker, I. Rundle, C. Gale; G. Anthony (sub: J. Maskell, 61 mins.), B. Baker, P. Suddaby, A. Horseman, J. Hutchinson.
LEATHERHEAD: M. Cuthbert; R. Taylor, P. Dade; B. Davies, B. Caterer, R. Adams; K. Mills, D. Skinner, M. Howard, A. Brazier, B. Webb. Sub: J. Strong (not used).